

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present amendment is being filed under a Certificate of Mailing.

Claims 6, 14, 20-22, 24-27 and 29-31 remain pending in the present application. Claims 6 and 14 have been amended. Claims 23 and 28 have been cancelled. No claims have been added.

§102 Rejection

Claims 6, 14, and 20-31 have been rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by U.S. Pat. No. 4,204,531 to Aginsky ("Aginsky"). Independent claims 6 and 14 have been amended to recite a third component that is coupled to the first component and separated by an opening from the second component, allowing the second and third components to move independently of one another.

Aginsky does not disclose such a third component. Aginsky discloses a pair of symmetrical branches 10, 10' and their corresponding links 12, 12', which the Examiner relates to the second component of the present invention. There is no disclosure of a third component that is separated from this second component by an opening such that the second and third components are moveable independent of one another. For at least this reason, claims 6 and 14 – and their dependents – are believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

For the above-described reasons it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 6, 14, 20-22, 24-27 and 29--31 have been overcome and are currently in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be useful, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 574-372-7332. Early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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